

*Inconvenience*

By far the most common objection to inspection is the bad memory of the 1948 experience and the fear that any system would cause undue inconvenience to the public. It is the easiest objection to overcome.

This bill will require one inspection per year and inspection dates will be staggered throughout six months so that only one-sixth of the state's vehicles would be inspected in any one month.

All of the objections we might mention would add up to a fear of improper administration of any inspection program.

I pledge to you and the people of North Carolina that there will be a reasonable and proper administration of this program.

Vehicle inspection will not solve the entire accident problem. But it promises more results faster than any other single bill you will consider in this session. Without its passage, I see little hope for an immediate impact on the rising accident toll.

*Reflectorized Plates*

A very promising safety device on the vehicle to improve the environment of drivers is the reflectorized license plate. At night, they are visible three times farther away than ordinary tailight reflectors. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia are reducing nighttime collisions by using reflective safety plates.

The approximate cost for North Carolina to institute reflectorization of plates would be 13c per plate. I recommend you adopt these new plates as a one-year experiment to test this device in our state.

Since 1966 plates are already in production, a change-over could not be accomplished until the 1967 issue. This would provide ample time to obtain basic data on nighttime collisions to assure a thorough and meaningful comparison.

*Outside Mirror and Seat Belts*

As another means of providing safer vehicles for our motorists, I recommend a law to require outside mirrors on the driver's side of all new cars sold in North Carolina after January 1, 1966. I am pleased to learn that auto manufacturers plan to install seat belts in the front and back seats of all new cars beginning next year. This is a further step in the right direction and complements North Carolina's efforts to establish seat belts as standard equipment.

*The Highway*

The three hundred million bond issue you have approved will be helpful in providing safer highways. I shall also make a number of requests to the Highway Commission to increase the portion of highway funds now being used to mark and sign the highways and to reduce current engineering hazards. No additional legislation is required at this time.